



INDEXA

Helping to Make DX Happen Since 1983

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INDEXA

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Kanton Island, Central Kiribati T31EU-- "QRV from a scrap heap"

By: **Ronald Stuy PA3EWP**



The team that brought you T31EU.

While enjoying a nice beer at the Hamfest in Friedrichshafen 2018 we exchanged many ideas about our next destination. Apart from the fact that we wanted to go to Tonga with a limited team, the first destinations for the beginning of 2019 in the Pacific have also passed the review.

At the end of August 2018, I was asked to join a German team planning to go to Kanton Island, Central Kiribati. At first, I said no, because the boat ride takes almost

one week from Tarawa to Kanton. Two weeks on the island and two weeks sailing including a trip to the Pacific became a little bit too much in terms of my holidays. But less than a week later the team came up with the idea to fly to Kanton. Günter DL2AWG had found a company that regularly flies from Tarawa to Kanton. My decision was then quickly made. I became a participant in the 6-man team. We had chartered the plane to fly us to Kanton and pick us up after 17 days.

In total I had to fly 30 hours before I was at our destination, Kanton Island, 6 different flights in 6 days' time. Our limiting factor was the total weight that we could bring with us during our last part of the trip (+/- 860 KG

(Continued on page 2)

inside...

CE0Y/NP4G--A Father and Son DXpedition (Page 8)

Zorro Miyazawa chosen Honorary Advisor to Bhutan Olympic Committee (Page 10)

Introducing a new video presentation about INDEXA (Page 11)

A message from INDEXA President Bob Schenck (Page 11)

Kanton Island, Central Kiribati T31EU (con'd)

(Continued from page 1)

including people) in a Super Kingair 200 airplane.

Our team consisted of: Günter DL2AWG (team leader), Hans DL6JGN (co-team leader), Joe DK5WL, Norbert DF6FK, Heye DJ9RR and Ronald PA3EWP. Norbert joined our team one week before our departure as a new operator after Wolfgang DM2AUJ had to cancel this DXpedition due health problems.

Our goal was to hand out an All Time New One (ATNO) to as many amateurs as possible, but also to focus on Europe. Within Europe T31 is high on the "most wanted" list; for Western Europe it is even in 6th place on digital modes. When the conditions would cooperate, we wanted to have at least two stations active for 24 hours with the focus on the low bands. Of course we also wanted to learn more about the Kiribati culture and explore the island.

Kanton is an atoll which belongs to the Phoenix archipelago (Central Kiribati). It is located 1,750 KM from the main island of Tarawa, a separate DXCC entity for radio amateurs. The protected area around the Phoenix Island Group covers 408,250 square kilometers of the South Pacific. The Phoenix Island Group is one of the three island groups of Kiribati; the other two are Gilbert and the Line Islands. The area around the Phoenix Islands is the largest designated marine protected area in the world. Phoenix Island Protected Area (PIPA) has preserved one of the world's largest pristine oceanic ecosystems from the coral archipelago, along with fourteen known underwater sea mountains (presumably extinct volcanoes) and other deep-sea dwellers. The area contains around 800 known species of fauna, including around 200 coral species, 500 fish species, 18 marine mammals and 44 bird species. The structure and functioning of the PIPA ecosystems illustrate its pristine nature and importance as a reservoir.

Kiribati consists of 4 DXCC entities:

- T30 (Gilbert islands, Tarawa main island)
- T31 (Phoenix islands, Kanton main island)
- T32 (Line islands, Christmas main island)
- T33 Banaba (belongs to Gilbert Islands but lies 450 KM west of Tarawa and for us radio amateurs is a separate DXCC entity)

About 36 people live in Kanton, including 20 children. Most adults work for PIPA (Government) and are stationed with their families on the island for 3 years or more. Tourists rarely come to the island, certainly no longer than three days, after which they

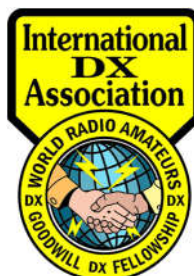
leave again. The tourists are mostly anglers. The Catholic community on the island has facilitated a kind of hotel for the tourists. There are two important items that they have taken action on, a bed to sleep and a normal toilet and shower. The rest is less important. They have created 7 bedrooms and 2 toilets with showers for the tourists.

Chuck, our contact person at Tarawa, organized a lot of things for us. Without him it would have been almost impossible to organize this DXpedition to Kanton. He bought many materials for us including a new generator. At the end of November I sent him a ski bag from Tonga (A35EU) with several (Spiderbeam) fiberglass masts and 250m of coaxial cables. This was much cheaper than bringing it back to the Netherlands from Tonga and then taking it back to Kiribati. Chuck had been busy for at least two months trying to send these materials (food, drinks, generator, table, chairs, fuel and ski bag) from Tarawa to Kanton by boat. However, he could not find a boat that sails to Kanton. He was able to arrange additional food and drinks from Christmas Island by boat to Kanton. But there was no boat sailing from Tarawa to Kanton.

We had to take the rest of the materials on the plane, which became a big challenge. Chuck himself also wanted to fly to Kanton with us. He had arranged all the paperwork with PIPA for the authorization to land on the island and our license from CCK (Telecom). We only had to pick them up there if we were in Tarawa. Because we had to bring the generator and ski bag with us on the

(Continued on page 3)

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Kanton Island, Central Kiribati T31EU (con'd)

(Continued from page 2)

plane, there was unfortunately no room for Chuck. The generator was still under discussion because on the island they had two generators including fuel for us. Upon my insistence to bring the generator instead of Chuck the team agreed. My decision was quite simple: "it is more important to bring a good working generator instead of trusting on two other generators of the Islanders. We would have had a much bigger problem if they were not working".

The day before our departure we were told by the pilot that the weather was too bad to fly and the flight had to be postponed by a day. After some negotiation, we also postponed our return trip by one day (we had one additional day on Tarawa on our way back which had been included as a buffer). This was not a problem, so we could still be active from Kanton for 17 days.

We spent the extra day on Tarawa as tourists, traveling with three people by boat to the other island, North-Tarawa. This was a paradise compared to the main island of South-Tarawa. The inhabitants are also very friendly. We made a tour through a few villages and then had a good lunch in a local restaurant. This day trip was definitely worth it, finally a bit of rest. About 70,000 people live on the main island, 70% are unemployed. The hygiene is minimal on the island. As an example, Chuck lives in a village of about 300 people. There is only one toilet. Most residents sit on a wall at the lagoon for their need. That is why everyone advises not to go swimming in the lagoon because it is heavily polluted.

The next day at 6:00 am we were at the airport for our departure to Kanton. It takes 4½ hours to fly there. We arrived at our destination just before noon. After lunch we decided that our shack was going to be near the airport. There was a perfect building with a lot of space for antennas. We decided to install the 30 and 40 meter antennas for the first evening/night activities. One of the generators of the village was installed outside of the shack. After we started it, we noticed that there was no voltage present. We almost completely dismantled the generator but could not find the problem. After this struggle we got the second generator from the village. This was at least better, we had 220 volts. However, as soon as we started and the power consumption fluctuated, the generator stopped working. Unfortunately, we could not use this generator either. After we had exchanged this generator for our own generator these problems were solved. From that moment on we only worked with our own gener-

ator. (Fortunately, we had decided to bring the generator instead of Chuck, otherwise we would have had to fly back to Tarawa after a few days without operating). After dinner we setup the shack and we were ready for the first QSOs. The first night we made some short shifts so that everyone could be active for a few hours.

The next day we installed the other antennas. Unfortunately, we had no time to place the receiving antenna for the low bands. This became a job for the following day. We had made two shifts of three operators from the 2nd day on. Unfortunately, we were unable to transmit simultaneously with 3 radios with 1 KW output. Our generator was only 3,800 watts. All stations could only produce about 700 watts each with our generator.

The propagation was certainly not optimal, but we knew that beforehand. (*Who goes to the Pacific during sun spot minimums?*) Western Europe was our biggest challenge. The signals from this part of the World were weak or totally not workable at all. The path directly over the North Pole was extremely difficult. Often the signals from Eastern Europe were S9, but to the west from central Germany it was very difficult or not possible at all. The 2nd week we adjusted our shifts to two operators per shift. We did this partly because of the poor propagation during the late night and the morning when only two bands were open at the same time. During daytime and in the evening another operator could use the 3rd station, but on low power only. This allowed the other two stations to make slightly more than 1 KW. The 3rd station was therefore regularly operating in FT8 mode.

The antenna farm was configured as shown below:

(Continued on page 4)

Band	Antenna	Details
10/12/15 meter	Multiband vertical	10m fiber mast
17 meter	VDA	12m fiber mast
20 meter	VDA	12m fiber mast
30 meter	VDA	18m fiber mast
40 meter	Phased vertical	2x 10m fiber masts
80/160 meter	¼ vertical/inverted-L	18m fiber mast
RX beverage	180m long	Direction north

Kanton Island, Central Kiribati T31EU (con'd)

(Continued from page 3)

We focused on the low bands, the because openings on the high bands were minimal. All the antennas were mostly into direction of Europe. During the day, we often turned the antenna to North America to be able to operate the weaker stations. The beverage was also pointing north, towards Western Europe. The chance that we would work a lot of Western Europe at 160 and 80 meters was also very little, but if you don't try it, will certainly not work.

During my own shifts in the evening and at night I was always active at 80 or 160 meters. Unfortunately, we could not combine it because we had to extend the 80m vertically for use on 160m as an inverted-L. The antenna had to be taken down for the band change. We had to make a choice in the evening before it got dark. Normally it was two days on 80m and then two days on 160m.

We had a lot of static on the low bands. Sometimes it was so extreme that it was only possible to make some QSOs in FT8.

In 1850, United Kingdom claimed Kanton as their property. In 1937 there was a total solar eclipse on Kanton island, many scientists from Australia and America were there. From that moment America claimed this island. After long negotiations, the United Kingdom and America both ruled the island for 50 years. From 1979 Kanton belonged to Kiribati when it became independent of United Kingdom. Both the English and the Americans had their own part on the island, separated by the harbor. Only the American part is still inhabited. The airport was built in 1939 and was used for refueling aircraft when they flew from Hawaii to Australia or New Zealand. Until the early 1970s, around 1,200 people



Remnants of the British/American "occupation".

lived in Kanton. After it became independent in 1979, about 300 people lived on the Island, all the other left a few years before the independency. At this time, it has now been reduced to less than 40. The entire infrastructure (roads, telephone-, power- and water-distribution) was left behind by the Americans and the English without cleaning up. All houses, buildings, factory halls, power station, satellite tracking station, telephone exchange, etc., are still there, but in such a state that it is too dangerous to walk inside these buildings. Everywhere you look on the island you see scrap. Along the roads, trucks, bulldozers, fire engines, etc., are still in the same place where they were left 50 years ago. You see the same situation on the Island Banaba, one of the other islands of Kiribati.



The old power plant left behind when the English and Americans vacated the island 50 years ago.

Most people think that if you go to an island in the Pacific it is tropical, exotic and you will have a luxury vacation. I can tell you that Kanton is 100% the opposite, one big scrap heap, no luxury and very unsanitary. But the people are very friendly and welcoming!

The families on the Island took turns in preparing us three meals per day. The afternoon and evening meals consisted of 95% rice and fish, then fish and rice, respectively--then the next day they had made a variation, lunch and dinner were interchanged! The first week there was sometimes meat (brought by the plane). After one week Frank; our contact person on the island; told us that they ran out of food because the boat had not arrived in 2 months. This is quite

(Continued on page 5)

Kanton Island, Central Kiribati T31EU (con'd)

(Continued from page 4)

normal in the Pacific; they don't have a firm sailing schedule and if they say a boat will sail next week, then it can also be next month. From that moment on we only had pancakes in the morning and no more toasted bread. The variation in rice and fish or fish and rice also decreased. Fortunately, these two products were abundant, but there was nothing else in terms of vegetables. Fortunately, there was a bottle of chili sauce to give the rice a little flavor. Around November Chuck had also sent food and drinks to Kanton from Christmas Island. Forty kilograms of rice, 120 one liter bottles of water, coffee, tea and some other small items had all arrived, so no problem. But after one week we also ran out of water, the coffee also became scarce in the last few days, tea was still sufficiently available. The last week we also switched to drinking rain water. This was fully available because it rained often. We had also only brought eleven bottles of red wine from Tarawa (we couldn't find any more), this fit exactly with the total weight that the plane could carry. We ate lunch with the entire team simultaneously every day. The propagation was bad at that time. We agreed that a bottle of red wine would be opened for every 5,000 QSOs. Dinner was always eaten in two shifts so that three radios were always active. This was the best time for Europe, so we had to be active!



The children of the island were fascinated by the radio operations and their teacher accommodated their curiosity.

We had three complete stations which could be used in all modes: (1) Elecraft K3 with an HLA1200 amplifier, (2) Elecraft K3 with an Expert 1.3K amplifier, (3) Elecraft K2 with a THP 1.1 am-

plifier. We used bandpass filters between the radio and the amplifier to eliminate any interference.

Logging was done with Wintest in a network configuration, all laptops could see all the QSOs that were logged. We were also able to set the correct time on all PCs for FT8 with WSJT and/or MSHV. We had no internet in the shack, on one PC the time was synchronized with a GPS receiver and distributed by network to the other laptops. Internet was present on the island, but we had to walk almost 15 minutes from the shack to access it in the PIPA office. This was also available for the islanders. Every day we uploaded our logs to Clublog, which allowed amateurs to see that they were in the log and avoid duping to be sure they were in the log. We also regularly sent information and photos through various multimedia channels.

FT8 was mainly used in Fox/Hound mode, but if there were only a few callers we used the normal mode. If there were too many stations calling we QSYed to another frequency for the Fox/Hound mode. We usually used the MSHV program for normal mode here. You can work up to three stations at the same time. FT8 was definitely not the main mode for me. I only made use of this mode when there was no activity in the other modes. I myself have no problems with FT8, but I'd rather make the QSOs myself than have the computer make them for me. I was surprised that it was possible to let the computer log 170 QSOs in one hour in this mode. The signals must be loud, it was only possible with Asia and NA. It is very frustrating that there is often no more activity in CW / SSB or RTTY but only in FT8. The signals are loud enough for a QSO in normal modes.

The advantage of FT8 is that many amateurs in the past could not work DX in the other modes; now their computer can work DX with the same setup. Hopefully these amateurs will quickly switch to SSB or CW and will make the QSOs themselves as the propagation increases in the coming years.

Because the propagation was poor, we had an extra challenge in SSB. Norbert had the disadvantage that he only does SSB, he was often calling for four hours for less than 20 QSOs. After a few days we had made the shifts in such a way that there was always one band open for the SSB operator. This also made it more fun for Norbert.

(Continued on page 6)

Kanton Island, Central Kiribati T31EU (con'd)

(Continued from page 5)

We regularly visited the local school. Of the 20 children, 16 were separated into two classes. We spoke a lot with Monita, the teacher. She explained us a lot about the island and the people who live there. She also gave us an explanation about teaching in Kanton. Both Joe and I also told the children about Europe, Germany and the Netherlands and everything they wanted to know. We all had a great time.



Here, Monita appears to be instructing her students in conjugating a verb in their language.

A half year ago Monita's house burned down so she taught the children from home. They were given another shelter for the school, but there was still a lot rebuilding to do within this shelter. A lot of school material had also been lost during the fire. Joe and I have given a personal donation to the school among the other things we donated. We hope they can make the roof waterproof again. One of the last afternoons the whole school visited our shack for a radio demonstration. We all enjoyed it.

The last day we dismantled all the antennas except the 160m antenna. In the evening we were invited for an appreciation party by the locals. After the party we would be active for a final night including sunrise at 160 meters. The party was beautiful. Especially Joe will never forget this evening, it was also his birthday and this had to be celebrated! All children sang for him in English and in the local language. All residents were present during the party, they had all prepared some food. There were several tables completely covered with lots of rice and fish, but also two large lobsters and a small pig, which they had slaughtered that day. For them it was also a feast. There was a lot of singing and

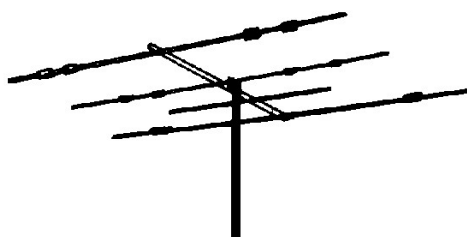
dancing by the children. At the end of the evening Frank took the guitar (which we donated to the people) and all the residents started singing. An evening to remember for a long time.



Our feast was an occasion to remember. Despite their modest means, the people of the island shared their food and hospitality with us.

Then we started with three operators for our last 160 meter shift. The static was so strong that it was impossible to make QSOs on 160 meters. Heye had started, then Joe. When I relieved Joe there were less than 40 QSOs in the log. I started my shift in CW and soon realized it was impossible to continue. Then I went to FT8 and the computer logged about 30 QSOs including a few southern Europeans. Very unfortunate about the static, I saw about 10 stations calling during the European greyline, but the computer could hardly decode anything because of the static. After the last QSO was logged, I started to dismantle the station. After breakfast we took down the inverted-L for 160m and made everything ready for departure.

(Continued on page 7)



Kanton Island, Central Kiribati T31EU (con'd)

(Continued from page 6)

Before we left the Island we had two tasks to perform. One of the traditions of the island is for all visitors to plant a coconut tree before they depart for home.



Ronald performs his obligatory planting of a coconut tree while others look on.

The second task was that our team was hopeful of getting a license to operate on 60 meters, but in all the time we were on the island, the license had not arrived. So, we took ONE FINAL check to see if it had arrived before we departed. See below!



Just kidding! Not much mail had gone through this Post Office in quite a while. HI HI
(--The Editor)

At 13:00 local time we flew back to Tarawa.

We are satisfied with the result, just over 39,000 QSO's, 17% of which with Europe. The best bands

were 30 and 40 meters for Europe. For more statistics visit www.clublog.org

The QSL cards were ready in April and sent out as soon as possible. All amateurs who have donated have received the confirmation via LOTW. The QSL manager is Günter DL2AWG. The fastest way to get a QSL card is via OQRS (www.clublog.org).

We brought a variety of materials for the islanders including the guitar. For the children, also included were a lot of toys, clothing, pens, notepads, caps and especially for the girls: chains, hair bands, bracelets etc. We also left our generator and some other materials on the island. At the PIPA office and at the weather observer's house we fabricated and adjusted dipoles so that they could better communicate with their base in Tarawa and Christmas Island.

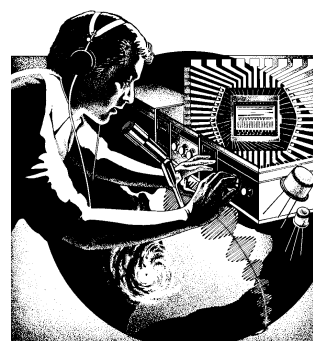
Early in the evening we were back in our motel on Tarawa. After a varied meal (with rice) and a few cold beers and Kawa (yes, that's another story) we ended the evening. The next day we had to be at the airport around 7:30 am for the journey back home. The trip back home went without major stops. But it still took me just over two days before I was home again.

There are too many individual sponsors and DX clubs to mention that have made a financial contribution. I want to make one exception and that was our main sponsor: GDXF the German DX Foundation. Thank you all! For more information see our website: <http://www.kanton2019.de>

This is one of the DXpeditions I will not soon forget. The propagation was minimal but the entire adventure was very impressive.

--73,

Ronald, PA3EWP



CE0Y/NP4G: A father and son DXpedition

By Otis Vicens, NP4G

It was January 1997 when I had the opportunity to go on a trip with my father. My parents had the idea of taking each of their sons on a love affair special trip without any of the siblings. This was a special trip and was usually related to a graduation present. At that time I was in high school and just recently issued my first callsign, NP3JG, while I was away on that trip to Egypt and Israel. Twenty-one years later, I managed to take my dad on the same trip, the only difference was that this was going to be a more intimate experience.

I was scheduled to attend an Orthodontic Congress in Santiago, Chile in August 2018. I invited my wife but due to prior commitments with the family and work, she was unable to attend. My Dad, from now on known as Cucho, jumped at the opportunity and we managed to escape across the Equator for 12 days.

Knowing that the opportunity arose for me to operate from Chile, I took the chance and got in contact with Roberto, CE3CT, who helped me get my CE3 and CE0Y license. Our plan was threefold—orthodontic meeting, operate radio, and a follow-up with a wonderful trip through Chile's wine making region. Although my dad is not a ham, he has a true passion for wine and all that is related to wines. This was a perfect trip since we were going to cater to both of our passions.

So the day came, and we boarded the only daily flight from Santiago to Easter Island. Five hours later we arrived at the Mataverí International Airport. We went through arrivals and that is when our adventure began. We waited and waited for our bags; some of the passengers had left but there were many of us still waiting three hours after our arrival. After that, a representative from the airline told us that they had some mechanical issues and were unable to retrieve the cargo containers that had our bags—our bags were to be flown back to Santiago and to be delivered the next day. Luckily, the radio did make it out but the antennas and wires were going back across the Pacific to the mainland.

So there we were, stranded! I called Jose, CE0YHO, the only active ham on the island who met us at the restaurant. He took us on a short trip and tour along the Rano Kau volcano and then back to town. With no radio operation in sight, we got up early the next morning to explore the island's magic and got back to the airport in the afternoon to retrieve our bags.



Setup could begin as soon as we had all our "gear".

This time they did show up and could be unloaded from the aircraft.

We went back to our hotel and immediately began setting up. With one day delay on this short operation, my dad helped me erect the mast and the vertical antenna. We also put up an inverted V dipole. We quickly set up the station and began making contacts to take advantage of the improved propagation in the afternoon and early evening.

Easter Island is currently ranked 106 on ClubLog. Since this was limited to 100w, we wanted to be as efficient as possible by limiting our operation to FT8 and CW, thus providing to the deserving that sought after FT8 QSO.

The following day I spent all day operating radio. Although propagation was not favorable, once the bands opened, 20M proved to be the best band with great openings to NA, JA and Oceania. I was happy to work many familiar callsigns and be able to put FT8 mode in a lot of people's logs.

Our stay was not wholly dedicated to radio operations, however. Cucho and I took advantage of our time on the island to spend some wonderful time together and see some of the marvelous things Easter Island is known for.

On the last day of operation, I called up Jose and told him to get on the radio. It happens that Jose did

(Continued on page 9)

CE0Y/NP4G: A father and son DXpedition (con'd)



FT8 served me well and gave many callers a first digital contact with Easter Island.



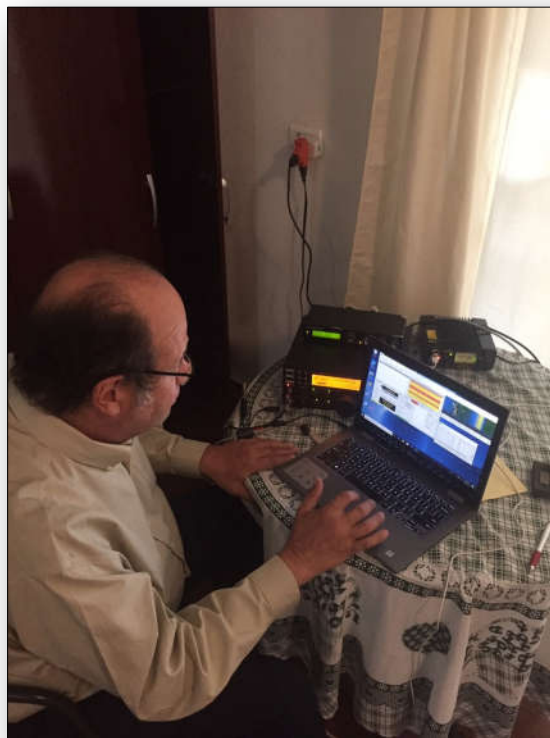
Cucho and I spent time marveling at the Moai, and not too much time trying to figure out how they were moved and placed by ancient peoples.

(Continued from page 8)

not have a confirmed QSO with Easter Island--his own DXCC entity!. Being the only ham on the island, imagine how difficult it must be. He missed the March 2018 XR0YD operation while being in Santiago for a month. So we managed to get him FT8 contacts from 6m to 40m a few hours before we had to go QRT and head to the airport.

Jose came along to say farewell and hand me the QSL card. I was very happy with his support and decided to leave behind some equipment. Imagine how hard it is to get ham radio gear down here.

We went back to the airport and after making sure that our bags made it into the plane, we flew back to Santiago to begin our wine experience part of the trip.



Cucho tickles the keys of the computer under the watchful eye of his "control operator"--his son!

Now that we are back home in KP4, my Dad did tells me that he has always thought that this ham radio stuff was complicated but seeing how easy it was to operate FT8, I think I might have a new ham coming along for our future DXpeditions.

--73 *Otis*, NP4G

(Dr. Jose "Otis" C Vicens, NP4G, goes by Otis when on the air. An orthodontist by profession, he is currently the president of the Puerto Rico Orthodontic Society, he is also assistant Director for the ARRL Southeastern Division and Assistant ARRL Section Manager for Puerto Rico. He is past Chairman of the ARRL Puerto Rico State Convention, a member of the K3LR Multiop operation, and was elected as a Director of INDEXA in 2018. —The Editor)

INDEXA Member named Honorary Advisor to Bhutan Olympic Committee President

Zorro Miyazawa, JH1AJT, is known by most INDEXA members as the principal donor to INDEXA's "Hams With Hearts" Fund. Those who have followed Zorro's amateur radio activity also know that he has been active (often accompanied by INDEXA Director Franz Langner, DJ9ZB) in conducting DXpeditions to Eritrea as E31A and to Bhutan as A5A.

A component of his DXpeditions to both Eritrea, Bhutan and elsewhere has been encouragement of education and healthy growth for youth of these nations. This support is made available partly through the Foundation for Global Children. (<http://www.fgc.or.jp/english/>) One aspect of healthy growth is achieved by his encouragement of Olympic and Paralympic participation by youth.

Mr. Miyazawa's tireless work was acknowledged on May 1, 2019 by being appointed as Honorary Advisor to the Bhutan Olympic Committee President, His Royal Highness Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck. The citation reads as follows:

"As per the direction of HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuk, the President of the Bhutan Olympic Committee and the Representative of His Majesty the King, Mr. Yasuo Miyazawa, Founder and CEO of SEISA Group, and Chairman of Foundation for Global Children, has been appointed as the Honorary Advisor to the President of the Bhutan Olympic Committee (hereinafter referred to as "BOC")*. This honorary counsel is established for Mr. Miyazawa. Also, it is the first time in the history of the Kingdom of Bhutan that a foreigner takes office as the adviser to the royal family.

Mr. Miyazawa has provided technical support, athlete training, scholarships, and grassroots development activities in a wide range of ways to the development and growth of sports in the Kingdom of Bhutan. In anticipation of the future of the Kingdom of Bhutan, including the improvement of athletics abilities for international competitions, health promotion through sports, promotion of sports for the disabled, revitalization of regional and economic activities, international exchange and cooperation, etc., he gave advice to be able to proceed in an integrated manner."

Through his deeds, Zorro Miyazawa continues to prove that he an excellent ambassador of amateur radio. Thank you, Zorro.



Left: HRH Prince Wangchuk visits the A5A operating room to observe the DXpedition operations.

Right: HRH Prince Wangchuk and Zorro Miyazawa gesture in a joyful interlude.



New**New**

New INDEXA Presentation Available

An entirely new version of a presentation explaining DXing and INDEXA's role in "Helping to Make DX Happen" is now available. It is more concise with improved graphics and only takes 10 minutes to view.

The new version can be viewed on the INDEXA website at http://www.indexa.org/indexa_video.html. It is viewable in full screen mode with only a mouse click. The presentation is available in MP4 format and can be downloaded for use as a presentation at amateur radio club meetings or other events.

New**New**

How a DXpedition Funding Request is Processed

To INDEXA Members:

I would like to review with you how INDEXA processes DXpedition funding requests. I'm sure many of you may be curious. It is fairly simple, actually.

When a DXpedition desires INDEXA support, they submit an application. You can look at the application form on the www.indexa.org website under the "DXpedition Support" tab. I invite you to take a look. As you will see, we collect pertinent information about the planned DXpedition which we use to assess the application.

INDEXA requires that the DXpedition follow our minimum standards designed to protect INDEXA funds, and to be fair to our membership.

Some years ago, INDEXA set a DXCC Top 60 requirement for DXpedition funding. We use the Club Log most wanted list, filtering for all bands using global log, for DXpedition support. Humanitarian support under our "Hams with Hearts" fund has recently been expanded to the top 100 using the same Club Log parameters. These DXCC ranking limits have been set in order to make it clear that INDEXA desires to support the rarer DXCC entities. This reduces the number of requests from clearly less desired entities in an effort to preserve our funds, and to be able to provide more substantial support to the rarer entities.

INDEXA also requires "fair play" policies by the DXpedition. These include providing INDEXA with adequate publicity such as displaying our banner on the DXpedition, logo placement on the QSL card and website, wearing INDEXA provided T-shirts (etc.) and appropriate photo opportunities, and a follow up article for the INDEXA Newsletter with photos for our membership's reading enjoyment.

We feel strongly about including a commitment to clearing the books at some point after the DXpedition is over. If there is a surplus of funds after a DXpedition is completed, a refund should be made, using some logical approach, to help offset the personal expenses incurred by individual team members and/or returned to the major sponsors. INDEXA is not concerned how the refunds are made, but does believe that any excess funds should not be held by the organizers for other purposes or projects.

A fair QSL Policy is also required. INDEXA believes that DXers should have an option to receive a paper QSL confirmation at no cost to them through the QSL Bureau system. The QSL could be requested through OQRS or by sending a QSL card via the bureau to the DXpedition's QSL manager. INDEXA believes that DXers should be able to request a direct paper QSL from the DXpedition's QSL Manager by providing an SASE with necessary return postage or by providing an SAE with minimal funds necessary to cover return postage. This policy encourages those with lesser means to participate in chasing DX. Perhaps encouraging young people now will cause some of them to make significant contributions to DXing in the future if their interest is maintained and they don't feel shut out now by the high cost of getting QSL

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

cards. The DXer always has the option of contributing to the DXpedition's expenses if they are able, but it should not be a requirement to receive a QSL. INDEXA also believes that OQRS is a service provided to the DXer. We believe a minimum charge for the service is warranted and is left to the option of the DXpedition. A full LoTW upload is required within one year after the DXpedition is over.

Although there are a few other things that we ask in the application, these are the most important. In nearly all cases, any diversion from these requirements will usually result in a denial. We have tried to keep an open mind and occasionally offered a compromise. But our rules are designed to protect you, our membership, as well as those DXers around the world who are less fortunate. You have entrusted us with your support and we take that responsibility seriously. Recently, INDEXA has denied requests based on a DXpedition's unwillingness to abide by INDEXA's QSL policy.

Once an application is submitted to INDEXA, the process usually goes like this. The executive committee reviews the application. If we have any issues, we try to resolve them with the DXpedition team contact person. Once we have a final complete application, we pass it along to our Board of Directors with a recommendation to approve or deny the request. We open up a discussion and if approved, we decide on how much INDEXA should grant based on available funds. Then we ask for a vote. The president then contacts the DXpedition to advise them of our decision and if approved, directs the INDEXA Treasurer to make the arrangements to transfer the funds to the DXpedition. If the application is denied for any reason, the President advises the DXpedition the reason for the denial. The DXpedition at this point can re-apply if they can address the issue for denial.

We at INDEXA value your support with reverence. Our officers and Board of Directors are comprised of a respected assortment of DX Hall of Fame members, DXpedition leaders, DXpedition team members, and serious DXers. We try our best to provide DXpedition funding to any team that follows fair play practices. We realize that some DXpeditions are very expensive endeavors. We also know that many of you are quite willing to support them on your own as well as via INDEXA. But INDEXA intends to protect our members through our DXpedition funding requirement policies. Our own DXpedition leaders who serve on the INDEXA Board know what works, what is fair, and what is right. DXers are some of the most benevolent people we know and they will provide substantial support when asked, not only to INDEXA, but also directly to the rarest DXpeditions out there.

Thank you all for your dedicated support of INDEXA! We are all looking forward to Cycle 25!

Bob

Bob Schenck, N200
President INDEXA

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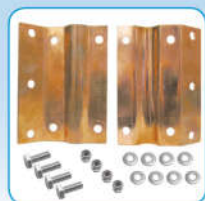


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